

Triumph for 'Save a Baby' campaign

TWO years after The Spastics Society launched its nationwide "Save a Baby" campaign in an effort to stop the needless death and handicapping of babies in the United Kingdom, a long-awaited Parliamentary Report was published — and proved the Society right.

The major elements of the Society's campaign were all to be found in the 152 recommendations contained in the findings of the Social Services Select Committee's Enquiry into Perinatal and Neonatal Mortality, published on July 16. Just as the "Save a Baby" campaign has done, the committee called for the improvements in the services for pregnant women and new-born babies in effort to prevent the deaths of 5,000 babies each year, and the permanent handicapping of thousands more. As soon as the Report appeared the Society's "Save a Baby" campaigners went into top gear to make sure that the report is acted upon. (See story below.)

National newspapers were quick to link the Society's campaign for mothers and babies with the committee's findings. A leading article in "The Guardian" on the day after the report's publication was typical. It stated: "Several hundred babies who might have died or been horribly handicapped could be alive and well today because of the 'Save a Baby' campaign. Launched by The Spastics Society, it has forced successive governments to re-examine their priorities and provide more resources for mothers and babies. But yesterday was the campaign's most triumphant day."

Society demands 'action now'

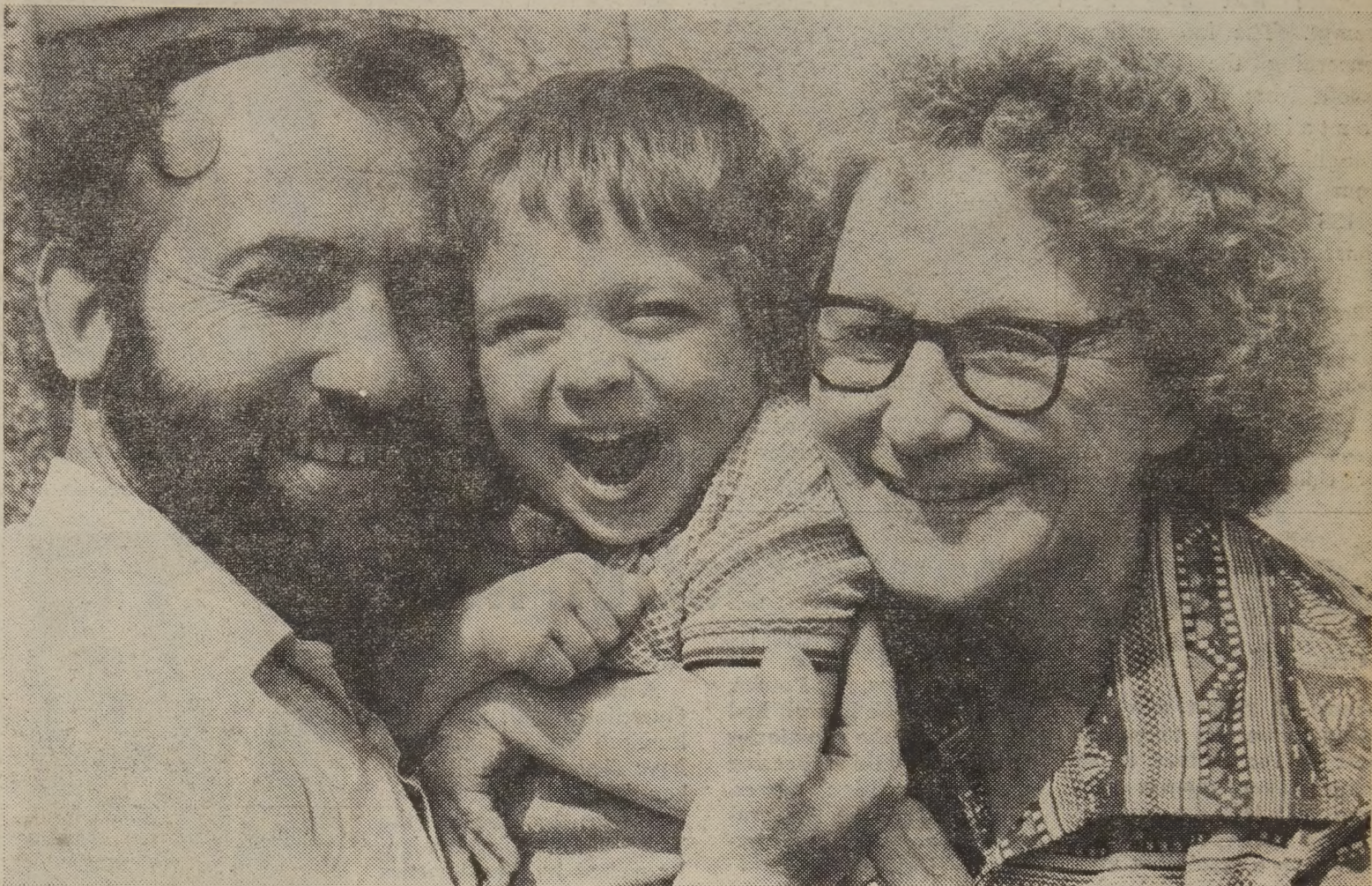
THE Spastics Society, one of the chief witnesses at the Social Services Select Committee's Enquiry into Perinatal and Neonatal Mortality hailed the publication of the committee's findings as "a major milestone" in the battle to stop the needless death and handicapping of babies in the United Kingdom, and immediately called a meeting of interested parties to discuss ways and means of implementing the report without delay.

The meeting was held in the House of Commons on Wednesday, July 16, the day that the report was published. It was chaired by Mr Michael Brophy, Director of Fund Raising, and was attended by the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, the National Council for One Parent Families, the Child Poverty Action Group, the Health Education Council, the newly formed Maternity Alliance, the Health Visitors Association, RADAR, and the Inland Revenue Staff Federation.

Mr Brophy said that the Spastics Society was determined that this

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A family for Stephen



His story told on TV

by Liz Cook

"I USED to think," said June Dooley, "that you couldn't possibly love a child you hadn't given birth to as much as one of your own, but you can. In fact, you can love them as much if not more."

Not only have June and her husband Gerry six children and one grandchild of their own to love, but now they are caring for Stephen as viewers of BBC's hour-long documentary film "A Home for Stephen" saw for themselves in July.

Stephen is a five-year-old spastic boy who faced life in an institution until the Dooleys came along. A nursery nurse before her marriage, June cheerfully confesses that her life revolves around children and that life without a child would be very hard.

A few years after their marriage both the Dooleys became converted Christians and as their own family were growing up they decided to become foster-parents. It was then Mrs Dooley made her discovery that you can love another mother's child as much as any of her own. "It was like a bomb had fallen. We fostered a little girl and when she went to be adopted it was very hard. After that we decided we wouldn't have a child we couldn't keep."

'At a shop'

Dr Barnardo's opened a shop in Colchester with details of hard-to-place children seeking adoption, and the Dooley's decided to become involved. But right from the beginning they did not want a baby that had plenty of would-be parents. For a start they knew that at 50, June's age was against them. And they did not want to choose a child for themselves.

Having gone through the careful and exhaustive pro-

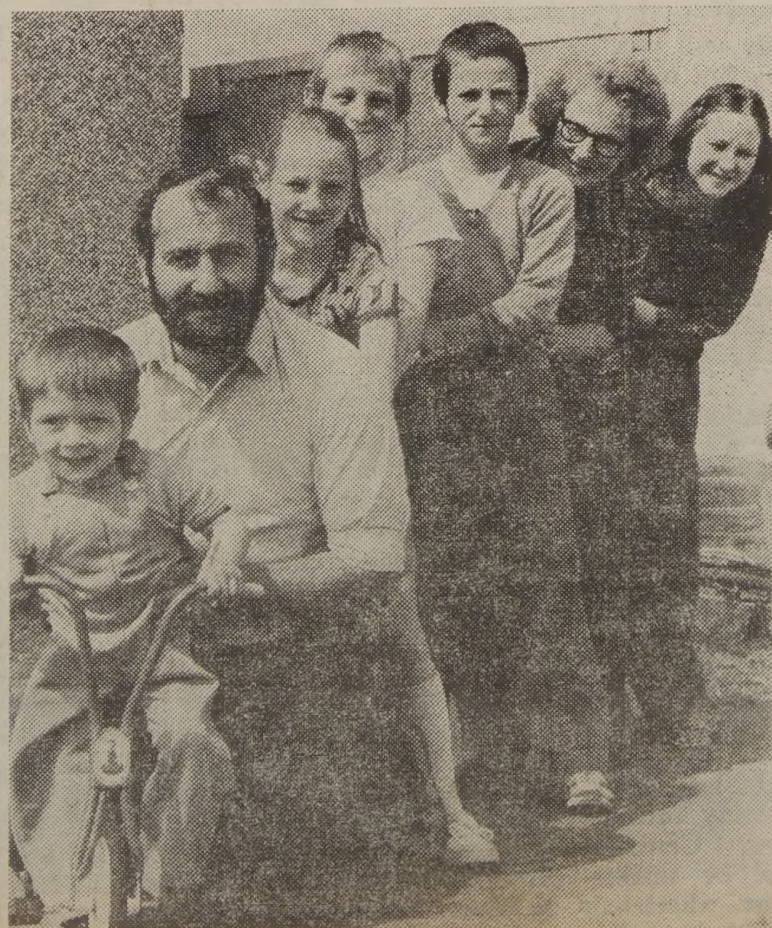
cedures laid down by Dr Barnardo's the Dooley's decided that the social worker and doctor involved in the case should make the choice. This they did and Stephen was chosen for them.

And it was then that The Spastics Society played an invaluable role in helping the Dooleys. "We went over to the Bury St Edmunds Family Help Unit and met the matron, Mrs Margaret Cresswell. She was absolutely marvelous. We just couldn't

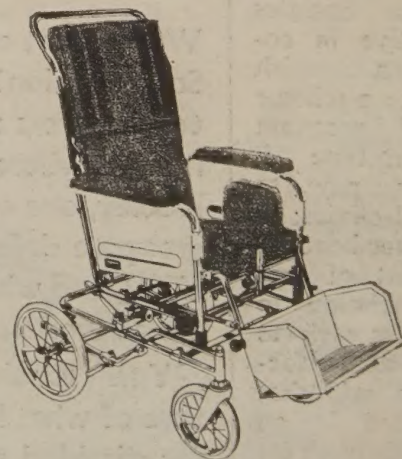
• ABOVE: Gerry and June Dooley with a happy, smiling Stephen. Left: Stephen with his new family, from left to right, Mr Dooley, Victoria, Samuel (the Dooley's grandson), Jo, Mrs Dooley, and Kay.

have done what we have without her. She laid everything on for us otherwise we could never have learnt so much about bringing up a spastic child in such a short time. It

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THINK BRITISH The Newton Avon de Luxe



The Avon de Luxe is now available in three sizes, 12 ins, 14 ins and 16 ins with a choice of chassis for indoor and outdoor use.

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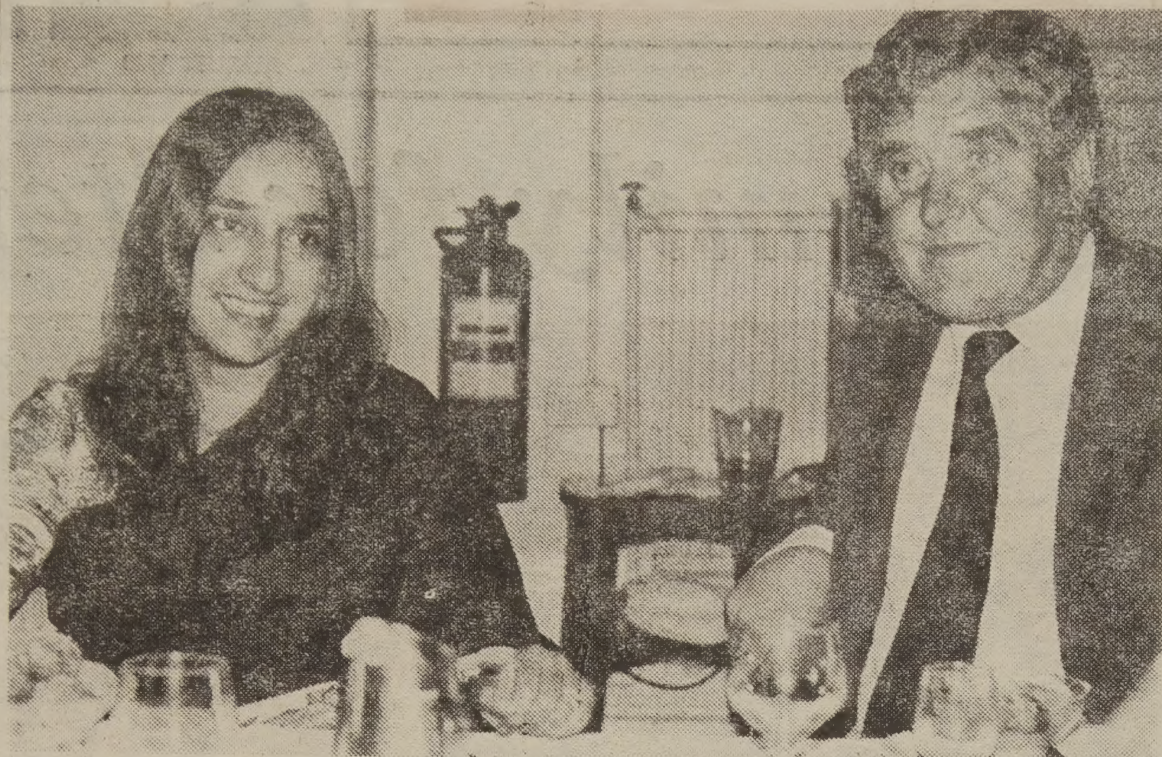
Newton Aids Limited co-operate closely with The Spastics Society in the development of new aids for the handicapped and in the improvements of existing aids.

Medicine charges for teenagers

MANY parents are unwillingly paying prescription charges for their 16-18-year-old schoolchildren, unaware that they are exempt. The information concerning the right to benefit from this relief is contained in a DHSS pamphlet M11, available from Post Offices and DHSS offices, but few pharmacists have heard of it.

Parents or adolescents themselves who wish to benefit from free prescriptions have to apply for exemption certificates. Parents are not allowed to sign on the back of the prescription form as they do for children under 16.

East meets West in London for 'Action India'



● SPECIAL guests of honour at the buffet-supper were Mithu Chib, Chairman and founder of The Spastics Society of India and former Minister for the Disabled, the Rt Hon Alf Morris.

"ACTION India" is a newly formed group whose aim is to promote and develop services for handicapped people in India. Its members include doctors, psychologists, therapists and educationalists who plan to share their expertise and raise funds for organisations such as The Spastics Society of India.

The chairman of "Action India" is Mr Alex Moira, a Vice-Chairman of The Spastics Society, who was host at a buffet supper given recently at The Spastics Society's Family Services Centre at Fitzroy Square.

Guests of honour included former Minister for the Disabled Mr Alf Morris, MP, and his wife as well as Mithu Chib, chairman and founder of The Spastics Society of India, who has been visiting schools and centres in the UK.

Other guests included Lady Burton, who recently visited the Indian Spastics Society in Bombay, and also broadcaster Gita Bala, who interviewed Mithu Chib for Radio London on her work with spastic children in Bombay.

The "Action India" group are planning conferences in several Indian cities in November 1981 to coincide with the International Year of Disabled People to which Mr Alf Morris has offered to contribute.

HEIGHINGTON and Anwick Karate Clubs are putting their bare feet forward to raise money for the Lincolnshire Spastics Society. Their bare-foot relay will take them from Lincoln Cathedral to Skegness collecting contributions on the way.

Society demands 'action now'

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important report was not going to be left to gather dust on the shelves, as so many other reports had done. He told the meeting that the Society had already drawn up a resolution urging the immediate implementation of the Committee's 152 recommendations, and would be putting this to the constituencies of all three Parties. It was also setting up fringe meetings at party conferences to discuss the issues, and was organising conferences with all Regional Health Authorities, Community Health Councils and the Health Education Council. Mr Brophy urged all the organisations present to support these initiatives.

A representative of the Inland Revenue Staff Federation said that she would put the matter to her members and hoped that it would be possible to put an emergency resolution to the Trades Union Congress in September.

Earlier, Mrs Renee Short, the Chairman of the Social Services Select Committee, presented its findings to a press conference in the House. She paid tribute to The Spastics Society's initiative in co-operating with a Scottish firm to introduce a scheme which allowed pregnant working women time off without losing pay to attend antenatal clinics, as well as some other benefits, including a pint of free milk, and permission to leave five minutes early to avoid the crush at the factory gates. She said that this had resulted in an important breakthrough for pregnant working women.

Mr Lewis Carter-Jones, MP for Eccles, also spoke about the important work The Spastics Society had done in giving evidence to the Committee and mentioned the rally in Trafalgar Square which had rightly named the need for improvement in the maternity services as "The Priority of Priorities."

Mr Brophy asked Mrs Short to ensure that when the report was debated somebody reminded the

Secretary of State for Social Services, Mr Patrick Jenkin, that he himself had been one of the signatories to a giant petition bearing nearly a million names, which urged the Government to reform the maternity services.

Mr David Ennals, MP for Norwich North, and the former Secretary of State for Social Services, said that the Committee's report would stand for 20 years as the most comprehensive study ever carried out into the problems associated with perinatal and neonatal mortality. Widespread publicity was accorded to the Committee's report in the national press, on Thursday, July 17, and to the

Society's comments on it.

A leading article in The Guardian said: "Several hundred babies who might have died or been horribly handicapped, could be alive and well because of the 'Save a Baby' campaign. Launched by The Spastics Society, it has forced successive governments to re-examine their priorities and provide more resources for mothers and babies. But yesterday was the campaign's most triumphant day: a four volume report from the Select Committee on Social Services containing some 152 recommendations which would reduce the number of stillbirths and infant death."



● CHAIRMAN of Action India is Alex Moira, Vice-Chairman of The Spastics Society. Mithu Chib looks on while Mrs Frances Moira chats to Carol Myers from White Lodge Centre, Chertsey, Surrey.

What is life really like for disabled people in Russia?

WHAT sort of deal do disabled people get in the Soviet Union? An ATV "Link" programme in July told viewers about Steven Glick's recent visit to Russia where he met and talked with Yuri Kiselev, one of the founder members of an action group to defend the rights of the disabled in the USSR, and which is experiencing harassment from the authorities.

Yuri Kiselev's picture of what life is like for disabled people in the USSR is very different from official Soviet propaganda, and his group is seeking international support for its activities, which includes the setting up of a free and independent association of disabled people within the USSR.

Yuri Kiselev has already

explained the situation of disabled people in the Soviet Union in an open letter to "Rehabilitation World," the international journal published in the United States. Alex Ginzburg, the Soviet dissident now exiled in the US sent Yuri Kiselev's open letter to the magazine along with a letter of his own.

Yuri Kiselev writes: "In our country, in contrast to those where legal and moral tenets are more developed, and even compared to such socialist democratic countries as Poland and Czechoslovakia where there are societies

and unions for the handicapped which defend the rights of their members, such organisations are categorically forbidden in the Soviet Union. If any of you should wish to remind people of your dignity and attempt to insist on your widely-declared rights — which in fact do not exist — not only will you be persecuted, but also your parents and your friends, those helping you in your everyday life.

'Monstrosity'

"You will be offered inferior prostheses, built on the technological level of 20 years ago, and you will receive only a three-wheeled motorised vehicle and a considerable part of your pension will go towards maintenance of that motorised monstrosity.

"If you need a wheelchair or bicycle chair, you will first be exhausted trying to get one — and then you will be afraid to sit in it.

"In the USSR no architect has ever designed housing for disabled persons. Consequently you will be unable while in your wheelchair to turn round in hallways or to

enter a toilet or bathroom. You will have to crawl in your own apartment. In order to go downstairs you will have to be carried, because your wheelchair will not fit into the elevator.

"Your vital medicines will be too expensive. You will eat much worse than other people and in addition in this country of waiting lines, you will not be able to get anything, anywhere, without standing in line like everyone else. Only war invalids have the right to go to the head of the line."

Everything in this open letter from Yuri Kiselev, backed by Alex Ginzburg, is also confirmed by the Moscow Helsinki Watch Group, set up to monitor human rights provisions signed in Helsinki in 1975 by the USA, USSR and 33 other countries.

Join forces

The Moscow Helsinki Group says that the creation of an association of the handicapped in Russia would enable people who are lonely and helpless to join forces; it would help hundreds and thousands of disabled people leading bitter existences to return

to full lives, a problem of enormous moral and ethical significance.

Linking such an association with international organisations of the handicapped in other countries would open up possibilities such as exhibitions of aids, and the getting together of disabled people to lay down obligatory world standards for the rehabilitation and reintegration of handicapped people.

Personal notice

DAVID, aged 13 months, needs a foster home. He is severely physically and mentally handicapped, and requires a great deal of individual attention, his progress being slow. He is a happy baby and given patient, understanding parents, could hopefully enjoy life more. — If you feel your life could include David, and would like further information, please contact Mrs S. Lowe, Social Services, 1110 Bristol Road South, Northfield, Birmingham B31 2RE.

An 'impossible dream' comes true at Milton Keynes

The joy of independent living



●STEPHEN Smith mows the lawn watched by his wife Celia, and Ann Panton.

**'The idea works
like clockwork'
says Kay Christiansen**

MOST people could be forgiven for thinking that independent living for severely handicapped men and women is an impossible dream or just mere wishful thinking.

However, 10 residents living on the Neath Hill Estate at Milton Keynes have proved in three months that, properly planned, and with the right back-up services, the idea works like clockwork.

Mrs Ann Panton, the Care Organiser on the estate, who is known affectionately by some of the residents as "The

Gaffer," has masterminded the scheme from the start.

Before they moved in to their specially adapted flats, all residents were trained by her at The Spastics Society's Broadstones Hostel in Birmingham. The average stay was three months. "The most important thing to assess was not so much how heavily handicapped the person was but what their mental attitude was like," she said. "Help can always be provided but planning must be finely geared and it is very important that residents should be on the ball and in charge of their own lives. Some perhaps were capable of getting their own breakfasts, while others could not manage it. However, all could decide what they wanted to eat and plan their menus and be ready with their shopping lists."

At the end of the training period, only one person out of 27 was turned down and this was because he was not realistic enough about his life. "Even he may change his attitudes and he can then be reconsidered," said Mrs Panton.

Return?

"We were, of course, prepared for the fact that some people would find living on the estate too much and would want to return to their centre, but that just hasn't happened. Not one of them wants to give up the independence they have won. I thought there might be some depression after the honeymoon period, but I was wrong."

Mrs Panton has a staff of part-time general assistants who are carefully picked because they must be well organised people and being on time for the chores that are carried out for the residents is essential.

"To give you an example of the sort of planning that has to be done by the staff as well as the residents I should mention one resident who could not dress herself or get her breakfast. At first she was breakfasting first and then getting dressed. I had to tell her to do it the other way round because it meant the helper was wasting time while she ate her breakfast because she had to dress her afterwards. If she dressed first, then the helper could be off elsewhere while she was eating her breakfast," Mrs Panton explained.

Every flat has an intercom in every room so that the resident can be immediately in touch with Mrs Panton and her helpers if



in need. "But we get surprisingly few emergency calls," she said. "Mostly residents requesting a bath in the evening or something like that." Some people can manage their washing machine, but not the ironing. In this case, the helpers do it.

One comparatively lightly handicapped resident who had been in centres for 20 years was taught how to grill sausages. He was so pleased with his achievement that Mrs Panton noticed he seemed to be living on them! "I had to say, come on, there are other things you can grill, and now he has enlarged his repertoire. He can put things in the oven but he can't take hot things out. He has to wait for a member of staff to come and rescue it. That gives you an idea of how finely timed the care has to be. It wouldn't be much use coming so late that the food was burned. That would be very frustrating and worrying for the resident and we want things to work smoothly here."

Another resident was organising very elaborate meals which took far too long to prepare. Mrs Panton had to persuade him to devise simpler fare.

A member of staff is always available for 24 hours a day and a nurse is also on call.

"Residents are very con-

●HELP when it is needed is always on hand. Picture shows Care Organiser Ann Panton with resident Clive Bailey.

siderate, though. They don't call in for nothing. We have certain priorities, however. For example, toileting is on the urgent list if the caller is immobile." How have residents integrated on the estate? "Amazingly well," says Mrs Panton. "All have made friends among the able bodied and invite them in for coffee and the odd party."

The flats are attractively furnished, with carpets, curtains and furniture chosen by the resident. There is a sitting room with adjoining kitchen, a spacious bedroom and a bathroom. Special aids are put in after the resident is installed as it is then easier to assess exactly where to put bath hoists, grab rails and other aids.

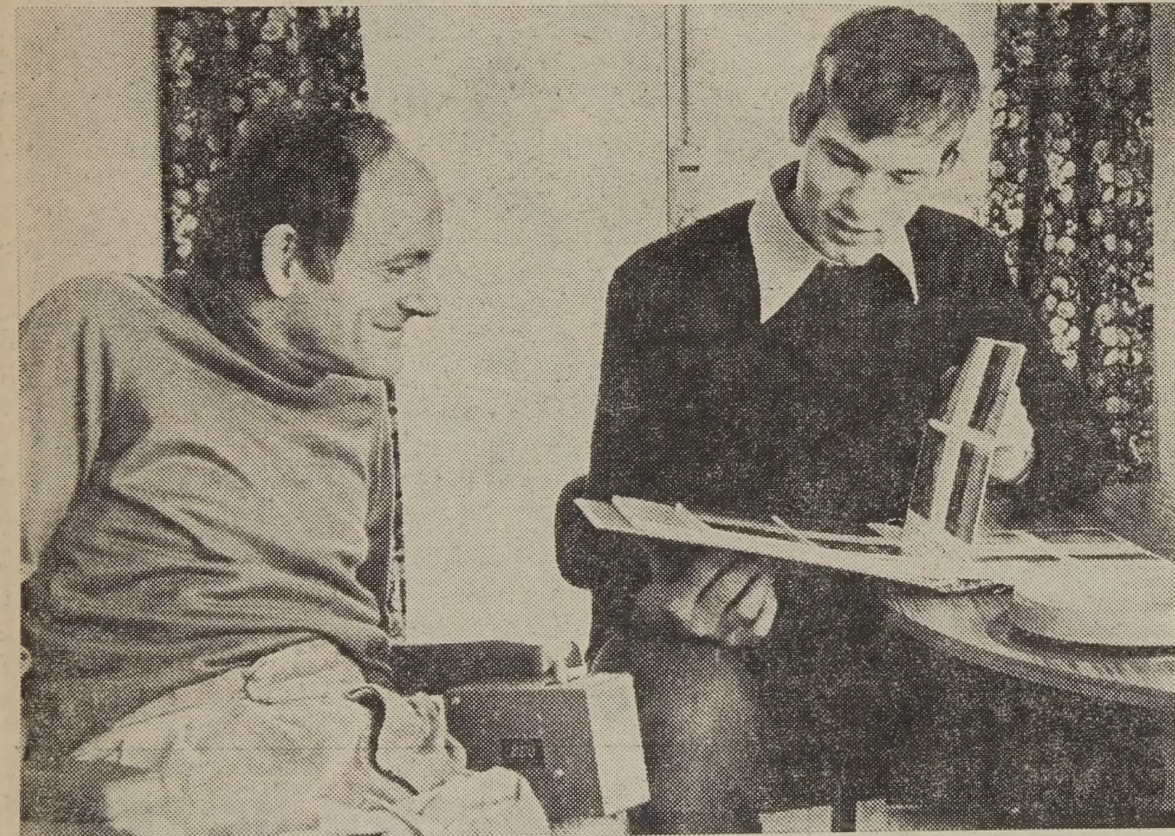
The flats at Milton Keynes are assessed as Part III accommodation and each resident must be sponsored by his or her local authority. After expenses have been met, they each receive £11.50 for food which, Mrs Panton says, they can manage on quite adequately. In addition, they have £3.90 a week pocket money.

Garden

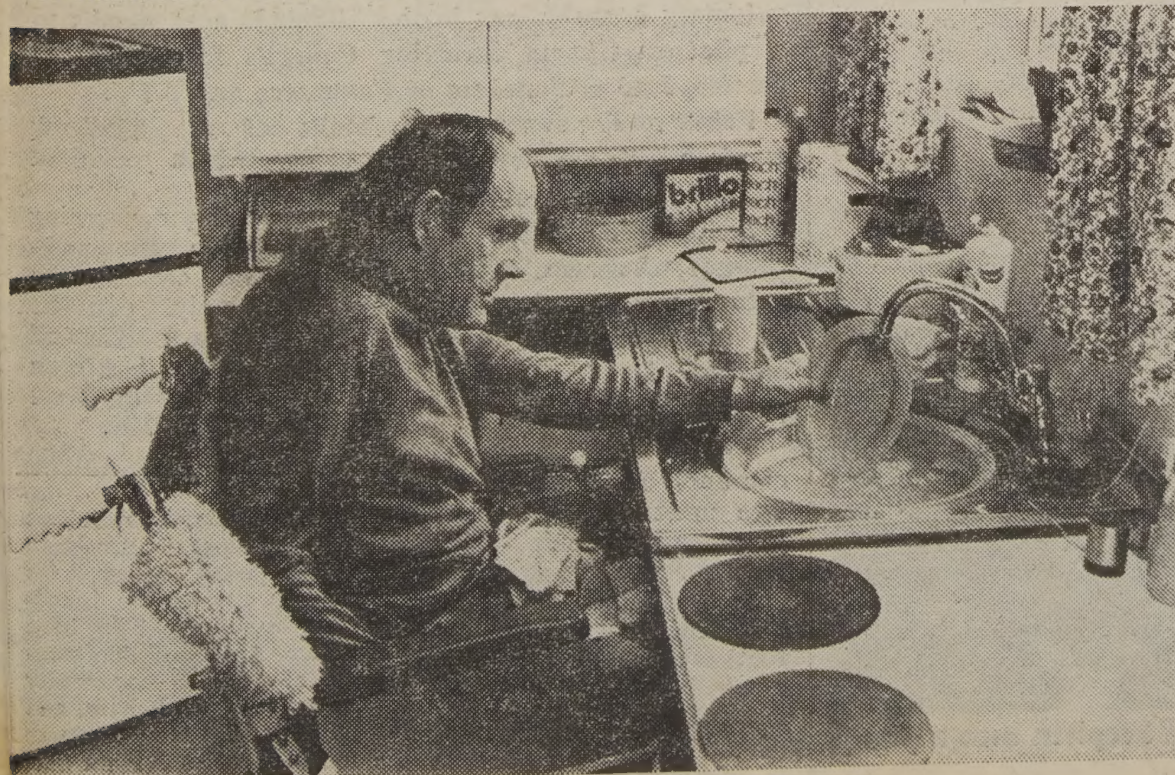
I went to visit Stephen and Celia Smith, a married couple who were the first to move in to the estate. Stephen is a keen gardener and was busy mowing his small front lawn when I arrived. He showed me the vegetables he has grown with some pride as well as his tubs blooming with geraniums. Stephen's hand control does not permit him to seed the garden but this is done for him. The digging and tending he does himself. He also does the shopping and helps around the house, while Celia, who is severely handicapped and confined to a wheelchair, does the cooking. "And she's a smashing cook," says Stephen proudly. "But she won't make fruit cake. That's because she doesn't like it, but it's too bad because I love it."

How do they find their new life? Both grin ecstatically. "It's just great. We love every

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●RESIDENT Michael Epstein enjoys his snapshot album with Police Cadet Philip Haseler, a Community Service Volunteer. Picture below shows Michael washing up from his wheelchair. The kitchens have been planned for maximum convenience.



●CLIVE uses a hoist to get himself out of his wheelchair.

A route to better guides?

FINDING one's way around the many Access guides that are being published these days is a confusing exercise.

There are access guides to theatres, shops, to towns and to seaside places. Are they all necessary? Are they reliable? Are they reaching the customers who will make the most use of them?

A two-day seminar organised by Mobility International will discuss these and other questions at The Spastics Society's London headquarters on October 27 and 28, 1980. The seminar should appeal to anyone involved in researching, writing, publishing or distributing access guides.

Inquiries regarding the seminar should be sent to Mobility International, 2 Colombo Street, London SE1 8DP.



● THE Duke of Westminster with Scott Barbour, a Daresbury Hall resident, aged 20. The campaign director, Mrs Oriska Cameron, hopes £1m will be raised to make Daresbury, in the words of the Duke, into a "home" for Scott and his fellow residents.

£10,000—and an appeal from the Duke for Daresbury

AS a stately home owner the Duke of Westminster is no stranger to palatial houses so the campaign to improve the Georgian Mansion that is Daresbury Hall is one that finds special favour with him. He has launched the campaign with a personal donation of £10,000.

The Spastics Society acquired the house in Warrington at a nominal cost in 1955, and the first residents moved in in 1960.

For nearly all that time Mr Freddie Osman has been warden and he admits that the place "Needs a fair bit spent on it." The figure that campaign director Mrs Oriska Cameron is aiming for is £1 million.

The 52 residents are crammed together on the lower floors of the premises, some sleeping seven

to a room and the bathroom facilities for the severely handicapped residents have been described as "inadequate."

Mrs Cameron estimates that £5,000 is needed to ensure proper facilities for each and every resident and already parents have contributed £2,000 and almost as much again was raised at a recent open day.

Mayor's aid

The campaign has raised £20,000 so far and Warrington's Mayor, Coun Jack Punshon has decided

on it as his year-of-office appeal.

The aim is to build more bedrooms and to divide rooms so that there are only single or double rooms, and provide purpose-built bathrooms.

All of which finds favour with the Duke of Westminster who feels that the bedrooms resemble nothing so much as dormitories. "All the people here are long-stay and I think it is important that this Home is made a home for them."

Death of Mr Sam Smith

WOLVERHAMPTON and District Spastics Society is mourning the death of Mr Sam B. Smith, the group's vice-chairman. Mr Smith was a founder member of the Society and worked indefatigably as vice-chairman, as a meticulous organiser of voluntary transport, and in many other ways. "He will be greatly missed by us all, and of course especially by his wife Olive, and son Peter," a group spokesman told Spastics News.

Residents enjoy their 'taste of independence'

Continued from Page 3

minute of it. "Stephen puts Celia into bed every evening and indicative of how glorious is their new found independence was the night she said: Oh, I could fancy a bacon sandwich," and Stephen was able to get it for her. "Just imagine fancying a bacon sandwich in a centre at that time of the night. "You would just have had to forget it," he said.

Stephen is a great practical joker. One day the flat was being cleaned by a new helper. He stood up and said "Oh, I think I'm going to have a turn. I feel queer." He stood up and then sat down and grinned. "That's better," he said — but not before his helper had panicked slightly!

Michael Eppstein is 48 and severely handicapped. He lived for nine years at The Princess Marina Centre and is now revelling in his new life. "I'm really enjoying it although I

know I've still got a long way to go, but I'm learning," he said. "I have made some really good friends and what I love is the way each day is different. It's the little things that you appreciate. You feel much nearer life on this estate. It's great to have the children running around, and people just saying 'Hello, Michael' in a friendly way hits you."

'In control'

Clive Bailey is 29 and has been at Neath Hill for a month. He is confined to a wheelchair and has to have quite a lot of help with his life. However, he enjoys studying cookery books and prepares his list of ingredients for his helper. "I like the feeling that I'm in control of my life," he said. "It's nice to feel it's up to me how I spend my money and I'm learning to budget skilfully." Clive has many interests he is able to pursue. These include travelling, reading, music and chess. As well, he is active in the estate's Youth Club and Boys Brigade. "I find independent living strange but not stressful. It's nice to have little adventures. Something always seems to be happening."

'Rescued'

Mrs Panton recalls the day of a terrible thunderstorm. She looked out of the window and found that Clive had been out in his wheelchair to post a letter and was stranded in the pouring rain. She rushed out and rescued him, got him home and dried him off. "That's what it's like here," says Clive, "someone is always around to help you out. For example, when I posted that letter I found I had erased the address. A lady nearby offered to take the letter, put it in another envelope and address it for me."

Clive is by nature adventurous and he doesn't allow being in a wheelchair to prevent him getting around. He had recently been to Wood-

larks Camp for a holiday and got himself there by train and taxi.

Once he has settled in he hopes to study for an Open University degree. "But first I want to get all my books — 200 of them — around me and get round to arranging my records and other things. Then I'll settle down to study." A friend of his who is a lecturer at Essex University is encouraging him to do this.

Mrs Panton is expecting another nine handicapped residents to move in to Neath Hill soon. "If they are as adaptable and cheerful as this lot," she says, "we shall all get on just fine. It's grand that they are all enjoying a taste of independence."



● CLIVE Bailey gets down to some typing.

Pilot scheme brings free TV publicity

PUBLICITY on television is being made available to voluntary organisations in the Midlands area thanks to a pilot experiment involving Councils for Voluntary Service, Junior Chambers of Commerce and ATV.

Public service announcements, which are between 15 and 30 seconds long, are transmitted free of charge between programmes in the same way as commercials or promotions for forthcoming programmes.

Voluntary organisations can apply for a public service announcement either in order to recruit volunteers for a specific project, or to publicise a service. PSAs may not be used for fund-raising. Help will be given in preparing script material, and a condition of being allocated a PSA is an agreement to supply

details of the feedback response over a period of six months.

Full details, concerning public service announcements, available in the Midlands only, can be obtained from the Central Liaison Group, 7 Albion Street, Brierley Hill, West Midlands DY5 3EE.

THE 300 American sailors based at a top secret American base in West Wales have proved themselves the friendliest in the country. They have won the American Ambassador's award for community relations work in Britain, and among the help they gave was a collection of clothes for The Spastics Society.



● ANN Panton tests out her intercom which keeps her in touch with the residents.



● ANN and Celia persuade Stephen into a pinny to do the washing-up.

Triumph for Mary at those 'other' Olympics

MARY Goddard, last year's Spastics Society Sportswoman of the Year, has returned from the Disabled Olympics in Arnhem with three Gold Medals, for Shot Putt, Discus and Javelin.

This makes Mary, who only took up sports five years ago, the current holder of the World, Olympic and British record for the Shot Putt.

Accompanying Mary to the Disabled Olympics at Arnhem were five other members of the "cerebral palsy squad" as they were called, this being the first time a class for cerebral palsy competitors was allowed.

The team, led by a sociology student, Mr Peter Kelly consisted of Mr Steven Faucon and Mrs N. Green from Southampton, Mr Chris Hampshire and Mr Chris Cannon from Nottingham and Miss Amanda Kyffen from Cheadle Hume.

Amanda Kyffen won a Gold Medal in the Javelin and a Bronze in the Shot Putt; Chris Hampshire won a Silver Medal in the Swimming 100 metres Back Stroke; Steven Faucon came fourth in the Long Jump; and Chris Cannon fourth in the 80 metres run.

"It was an exhilarating and exciting competi-

tion for the six Great Britain CPs and their achievement and success is a credit to the many individuals and clubs who have supported them with training and facilities," says Peter Kelly, team manager to the squad.

The six spastic competitors were amongst the 107 competitors from Great Britain who stayed in the Olympic Village, a modern army barracks near Arnhem, along with 3,000 disabled competitors from 42 different countries.

During their stay, the team attended a reception given by the British Embassy in Holland at the disabled village of Het Dorp.

National focus for developing new hobby

RESIDENTS from the Princess Marina Centre, run by The Spastics Society, have had examples of their photographic work displayed in the national Photography for the Disabled Exhibition which took place in Kingston upon Thames during July.

The development of photography as a hobby at the Princess Marina has been happening over the past few months due to the initiative and interest of Maria Bartha, a professional camerawoman who often takes pictures for *Spastics News*. Maria submitted 42 entries on behalf of her photographic students as well as 10 prints done by her helper Victor Healy from Barnet, who has cerebral palsy.

Even the most severely handicapped residents have been able to take part in the photographic group thanks to some clever camera adaptations by Ken Ketteridge, the Electronic Aids Unit Engineer from the Society's Meldreth Manor School. These adaptations include special trays which clip on to a wheelchair to hold the camera steady, and one of the students, Robin Skells, is now experimenting with a camera which he operates with a head beak.

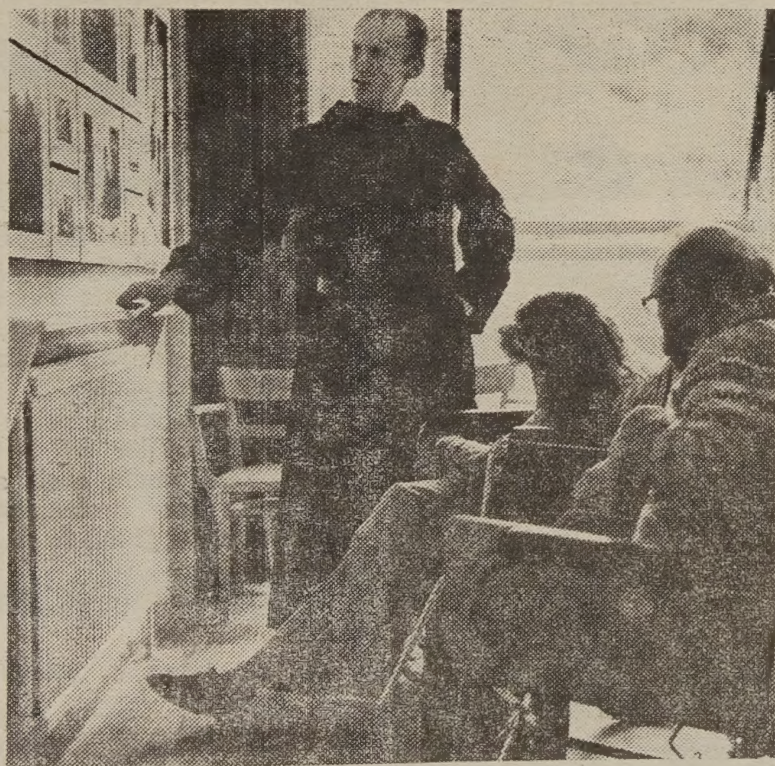
Maria also approached her local Remap group in Barnet who have also done some simple adaptations, such as enlarging knobs and levers.

Maria's helper, Victor Healy, first became interested in photography after taking part in a week's PHAB course in Dorset two years ago, and soon it replaced his previous hobby, painting. Landscapes are still his favourite subject, however, particularly woodlands, and luckily Victor is able to travel around looking for new locations in his three-wheeler car.

Mobility is a problem, though, for the Princess Marina photographers who are all in wheelchairs, which made a visit to the Photography for the Disabled Exhibition quite an adventure. Access to this exhibition of work by disabled people was virtually denied to disabled people due to its location on the third floor of the museum



MARIA Bartha (centre) who runs the photographic project at the Princess Marina Centre took some of her students to the Photography for the Disabled Exhibition at Kingston upon Thames to see their work on display. From left to right, they are Arthur Kenny, Tony Smith, Peter Lloyd, Robin Skells, and behind the wheelchair, Victor Healy, a cerebral palsy sufferer who helps with the project.



and art gallery at the central library in Kingston upon Thames!

Victor, who is able to walk and to push a wheelchair, although not able to lift and carry someone in a wheelchair, explained their situation. "There were three flights of stairs, and no lift, so everyone had to be carried up." Fortunately, local passers-by obligingly helped out.

Another visit to another photographic exhibition, this time nearer home, was more easily organised. Arthur Kenny and Robin Skells were amongst a small party who visited Nashdom, a local monastery a few miles from the Princess Marina Centre.

The Princess Marina party saw the Nashdom photographic exhibition illustrating life in a Benedictine monastery; they were shown over the chapel and stayed for tea, chatting

to the monks, comparing their different life styles. As Maria Bartha commented, it was a marvellous example of how the enthusiasm from a leisure interest such as photography was not only valid in its own right but could also be used to widen the horizons of disabled people.



VICTOR Healy (standing) who himself has cerebral palsy, acts as Maria's assistant with the project. A keen amateur photographer from Barnet, Victor entered 10 of his prints in the Photography for the Disabled Exhibition. He is seen here along with Michael Walsh from the Princess Marina Centre. Victor has his own darkroom at home where he prints most of Michael's pictures.

"What you really need is a home lift"



Expert advice ... but it sounds like a dream! Stannah the lift specialists have made it a reality with their Homelift range. Space is no problem. They can occupy as little as a square metre of floor ... fit neatly into a stairwell, recess or the unused corner that most homes have. An 'open space' model even leaves your ground floor totally clear when parked upstairs, whilst a larger model takes a wheelchair. Safe, simple to install, and reliable with Stannah nationwide service behind them ... the Homelifts are no dream, but a home improvement that could transform your life!

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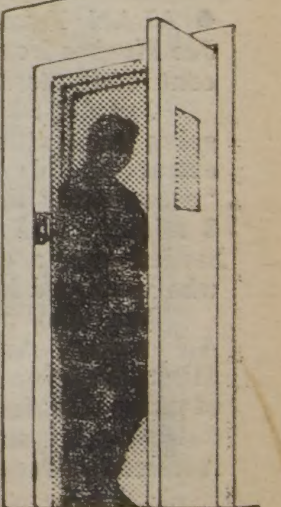
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ALL THE FUND RAISING F



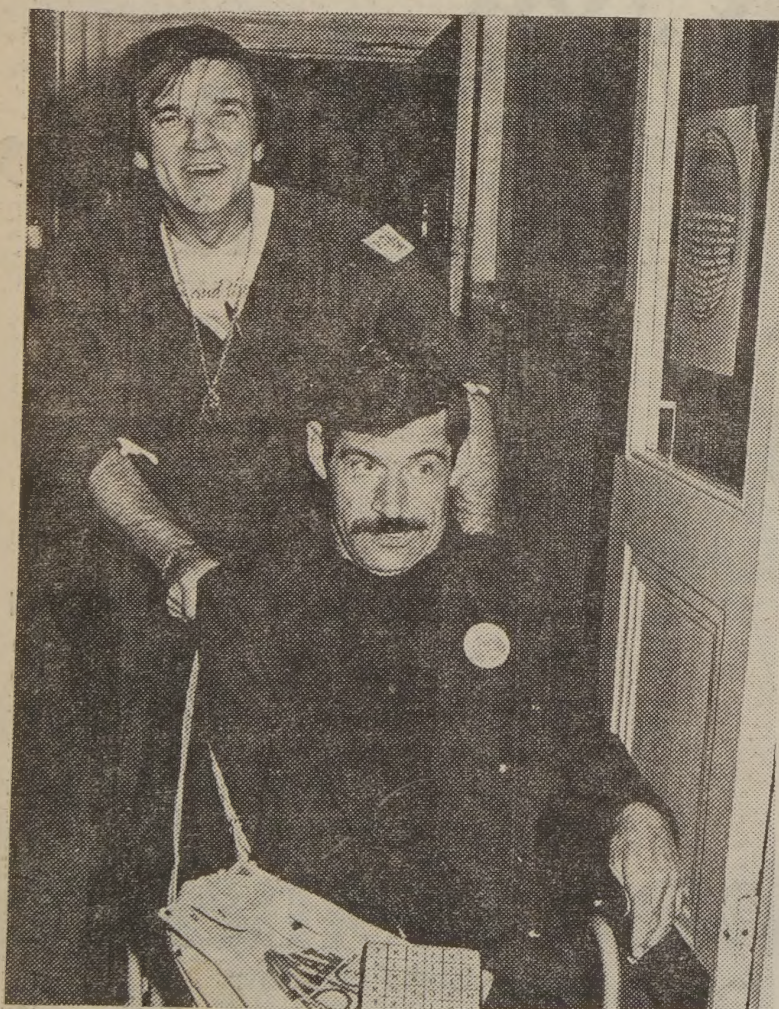
● A BIRD'S eye view of one corner of Fitzroy Square, London, as the fair took over and business got brisker. Profits of £3,000-plus were up on the previous two years' fairs, and more stalls were run this time by staff volunteers from The Spastics Society. The fair was in aid of the Society's Family Services and Assessment Centre in the Square.



● THE flower stall, freshly stocked with plants and flowers from Covent Garden that Thursday morning, July 17, raised a total of £140. The satisfied customer on the left is Mrs Hacker from Woolwich who has been a visitor to every Fitzroy Fair so far.



● THIS group of trainees in Training Centre, Welwyn, Hertfordshire, are posing for a photo. The bus a star attraction at the fair, one chance for every one from to get together for the serious and fund raising for the Centre.



● ALAN Freeman from Capital Radio congratulates Joe Hughes from Belfast on his own special fund raising contribution towards the Fitzroy Fair.

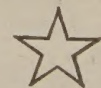
Joe did 50 circuits of the square in his wheelchair going backwards, pushing with his left foot, which is the extent of his mobility. Sponsors were invited to "guesstimate" the time, which turned out to be 3 hours 8 minutes, and the two nearest answers won LPs. Joe handed over a cheque for £500 from friends in Belfast who sponsored him.

Joe, who was a winner in The Spastics Society's Achievement Award in 1976, was recently awarded the MBE. He has a magnificent fundraising record on behalf of many charities, but his effort at the Fitzroy Fair was his own way of saying thank-you for the assessment he received there some years ago.



● ONE of the stall holders with a particularly lively line in patter was Peter Davies who normally works amid the hustle and bustle of London Airport.

Peter, who was a volunteer stall holder at last year's fair, made such a hit with his customers, they were delighted to see him back.



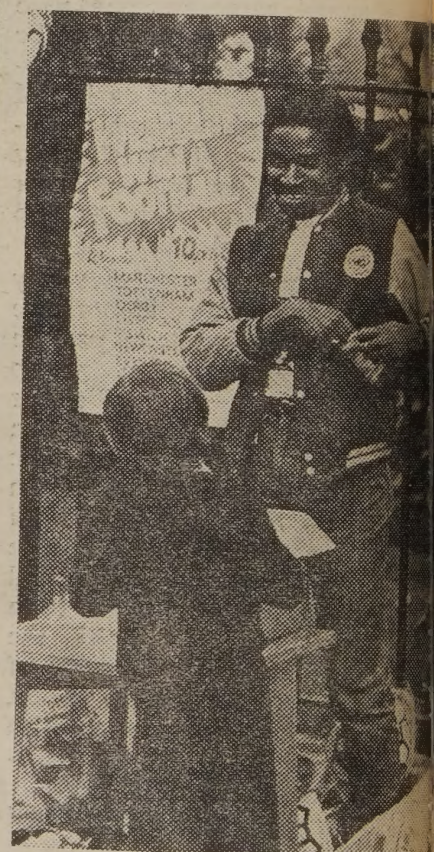
● PICTURE left: A great moment for Eileen Lineham from Walthamstow who is blind, spastic and epileptic, as she chatted to her favourite star Adrian Love of Capital Radio. Eileen recently enjoyed a holiday at Chiltern House in Oxford, run by The Spastics Society.



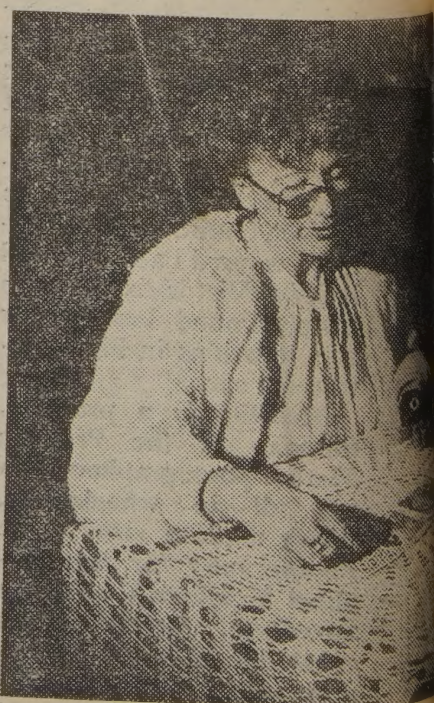
● RIGHT: What the Tarot foretells was interpreted by clairvoyante Ilynn Miller, who gave her services for free in aid of the Fitzroy Fair. There was a constant queue outside her marquee all evening for five-minute Tarot readings.



● THIS group of trainees in Training Centre, Welwyn, Hertfordshire, are posing for a photo. The bus a star attraction at the fair, one chance for every one from to get together for the serious and fund raising for the Centre.



● SPASTICS Society staff member raised £64 on his "Wembley Win" youngsters had a sporting chance has worked in the Appeals Dept. Society doing data control since 1976.



Margaret Murray took the pictures

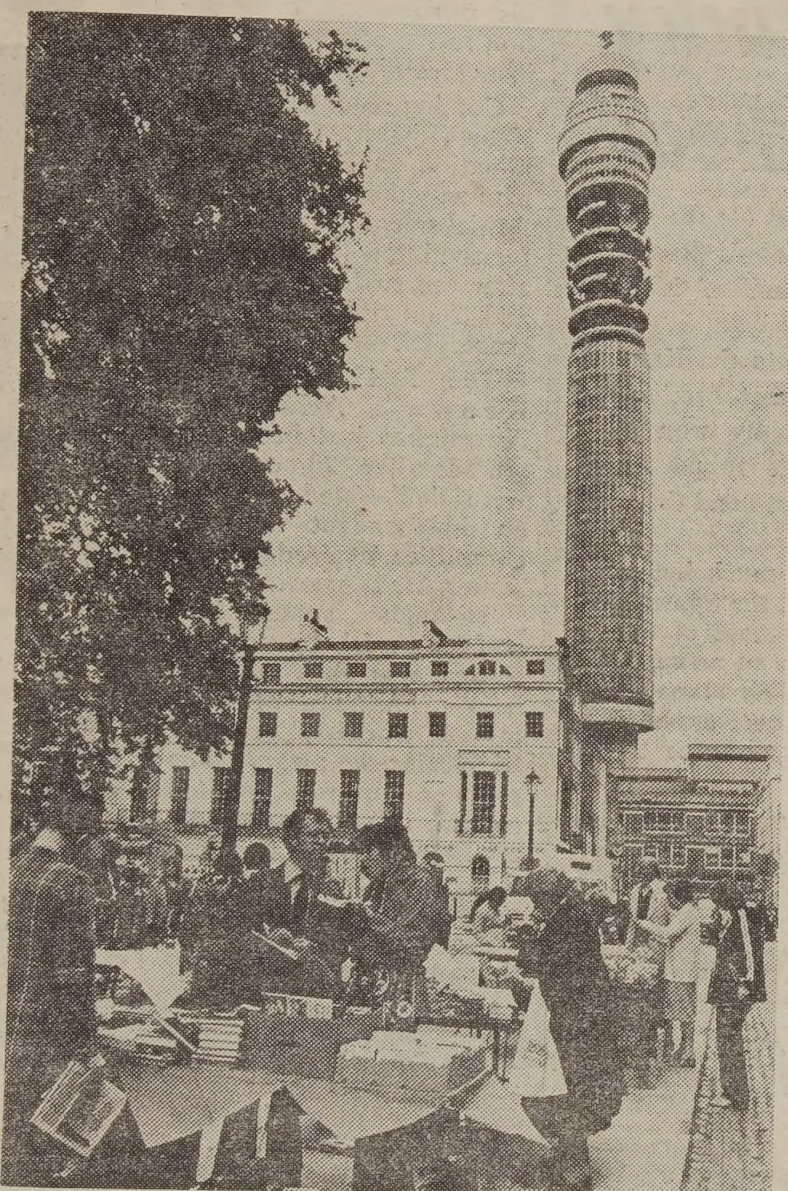
UN OF THE FITZROY FAIR



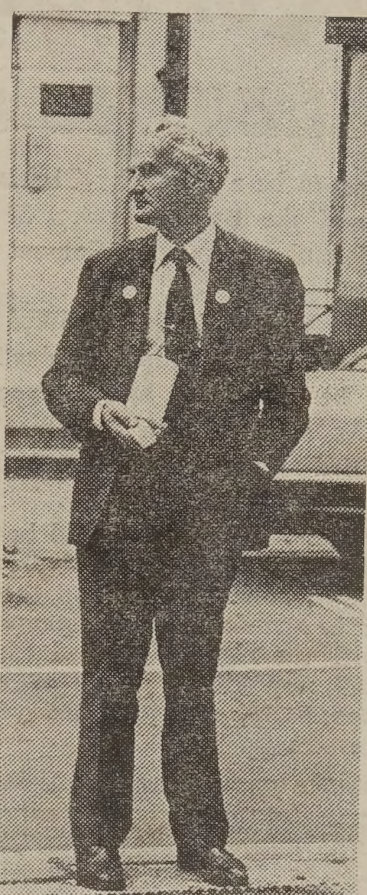
● AUTHENTIC fairground side shows all added to the carnival atmosphere as the normally quiet London square was transformed for the evening.



● AN end of term treat for 18-year-old Richard Tillet, who was one of a party from Dene Park, The Spastics Society's Further Education College in Tonbridge, Kent, who came up to London especially for the Fitzroy Fair. Richard was accompanied by care assistant Sue Sheehy.



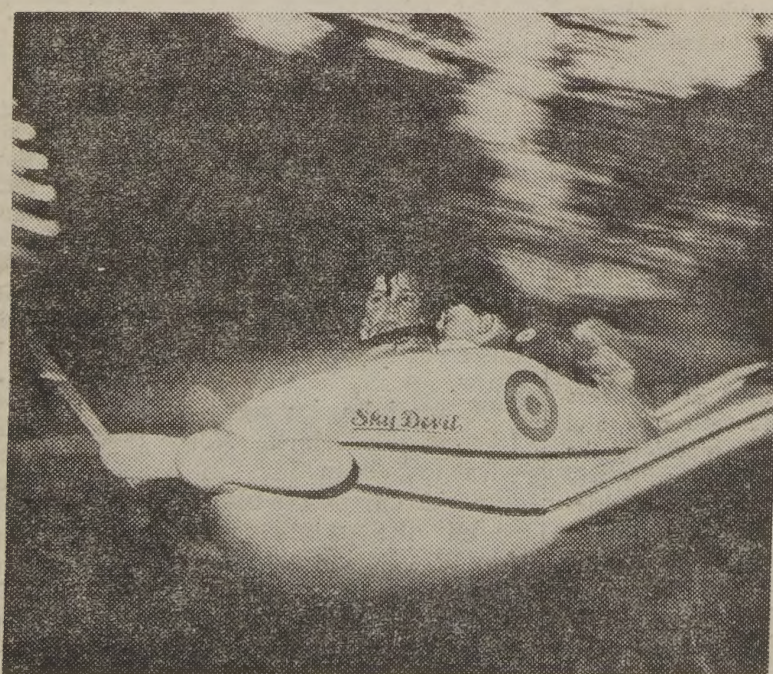
● THE familiar landmark of the Post Office Tower makes Fitzroy Square an easily recognisable place for strangers to find. But while there weren't quite so many casual visitors to the fair this year, takings were well up on the two previous fairs.



● AMONG the many members of staff who gave their free time for the evening was Mr A. V. M. Diamond, the Company Secretary, who acted as one of the marshals stationed at the four corners of the square. Over £200 was collected from members of the public in this way, and the fair raised over £3,000 net profit.



● ALAN Freeman from Capital Radio had a special hug for Eileen — Mrs Eileen Wolfrey — who has been a popular tea lady with the Society for the past six years.



● THE fair started at 6 pm and ended at midnight. As darkness fell the bright lights of the funfair began to take over.



● PAUSE for refreshment and a spontaneous Spastics Society get-together. Left to right: Michael Brophy, Director of Fundraising and Public Relations; Fritz Jansen, Acting Finance Director; Margaret Morgan, Controller of Personal Social Services; Ian Dawson-Shepherd, Executive Council member and one of the Society's founders; Bill Hargreaves, Head of Recreational Services; and Leslie Gardner, Principal Psychologist and Head of Educational and Social Studies.

Sherrards Industrial
round the Capital Fun
The Fitzroy Fair is the
all parts of the Society
business of having fun —

per Lenny Patterson
Football" stall where
at 10p a time. Lenny
ment of The Spastics
ing school.

Homework Centre is moving

AFTER eight years in Wood Green, North London, the Canongate Works Homework Centre, run by The Spastics Society, is closing down — but not shutting up shop. Instead the base of operations will be the Chingford Work Centre.

Mr Arthur Dobson, Homework Manager, explained: "Our lease ran out just over a year ago and we tried very hard to get it renewed at a reasonable level but we couldn't arrange terms. To cap it all we got a rates demand for £1,800. We couldn't find alternative suitable premises in the right area for the right price.

"With the present financial problem we decided the only place we could go was the Chingford Work Centre. That way we can work closely with the Contracts Department. If the demand for jewellery falls off because of the current recession it may mean that handicapped homeworkers and potential homeworkers could perhaps find openings in electronics work.

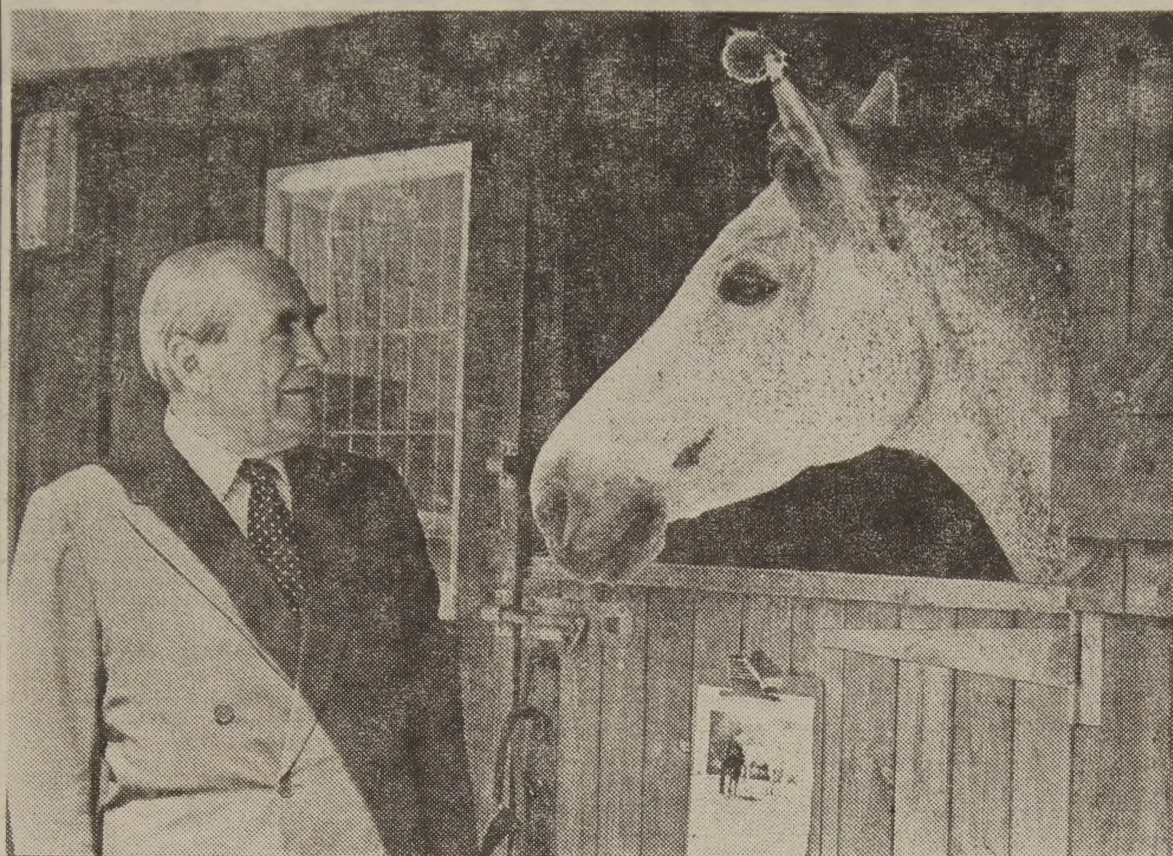
"We are going to take the opportunity of developing new ideas. It may mean that the individual craftsman's work may come into its own again."

The changeover takes place at the beginning of August.

Fair exchange

WESTON - super - Mare Teen and Twenty Club for the disabled has played host for a week to a group of disabled people from Hanover, Germany. Last year a party from the Somerset town spent a week there, and it was so successful a return visit was planned.

Phoebe meets a VIP



FIFTEEN-year-old Phoebe the mare meets Lord Carodan who was the VIP guest at the open day held at Churchtown Farm, Lanlivery, Cornwall, run by The Spastics Society.

This special field study centre for handicapped people was a triumph, not only for Cornwall but internationally, said Lord Carodan, who continued: "I wanted to come and see it myself, having heard of its fame not only in Cornwall but throughout the world," he said. "News travels fast and this centre is exciting a great deal of interest in Australia as well as in Europe and across the Atlantic."

Lord and Lady Carodan were shown round the centre and the nature reserve and farm by Mr Philip Varcoe, President of the Friends of Churchtown.

Picture by the Cornish Guardian

Years of Kentucky Christmasses ahead

IT'S going to be a Kentucky Christmas for the 48 residents of the Buxton centre, St John's Road, Buxton, thanks to one of Colonel Sanders' kind customers.

When Mr Derek Ediss walked into the Kentucky Fried Chicken shop at Bridge Street, Buxton, recently he found he had unexpectedly won a prize. As their 2,000th customer he found he was entitled to a free chicken and chips meal there for the rest of his life.

Mr Ediss thought it would be a much better idea if the 48 residents of the Bedford, the Spastics centre in St John's Road, had the benefit of the treat, all in one sitting. So he came to an arrangement with the Kentucky Fried Chicken management and now there's going to be a Kentucky Christmas party, not just this year, but as an annual event.



Defenders of the 'trike'

MAY I say a big "Thank you" to you for finding my letter entitled "Lament for the trike — it gave us dignity and independence," fit to be printed in the July issue of *Spastics News*.

I really do feel truly indebted to you all, and cannot properly describe my deep gratitude.

In what often seems an uphill struggle to replace the three wheeler with some sort of specialised vehicle, it is people like you, who are willing to print the "unpopular views" as well as the popular ones, that gives people like myself renewed strength to go on fighting for such things.

Personally, I think I shall always fight on to regain that lost freedom and independence for all those who wish to have it. Thank you, *Spastics News*, for offering such a wonderful helping hand. I do very much hope, and feel sure, that there will be success at the end of the tunnel.

Kevin Frayn,
Drummonds Centre,
Feering,
Colchester,
Essex.

I WAS delighted to read the letter in *Spastics News* pointing out the difficulties caused to so many disabled people by the loss of the dear old "trike." Do the campaigners who were so active in blackguarding the "noddy car" realise yet what a terrible mistake they made? And will any of them have the grace to admit that their actions have resulted in many people being denied the chance of independence because the "trike" was the only vehicle they could possibly manage?

As usual with campaigners they overstated their case, and many people — especially the young handicapped who will never have the chance of driving a little car of their own — will not forgive them.

On behalf of those who could never aspire to drive the "ordinary" cars demanded by the anti-trike brigade (because we are not "ordinary" people), I only hope that, one day a suitable replacement for the "trike" will be available. Mr J.M. (name and address supplied).

Ulster's man of achievement

BILL KEOWN is a man who knows what it is to fight and win. As a baby born severely handicapped by spasticity he suffered double pneumonia, but he survived, and today is one of Ulster's most respected businessmen.

In addition to running a thriving cottage knitting industry, he is a JP, and member of his Health and Social Services Board among other councils and committees. He was decorated with the MBE and in 1976 was placed second in the Society's Achievement Award for his outstanding contribution to the community and in overcoming disability.

Coming second fired Mr Keown with the determination to find someone who would come first in an Achievement Award focussed on Ulster, and after years of patient work and fund raising he has succeeded.

The first ever Wm Keown Achievement Award has just been presented after 28 citations were deliberated over by an independent selection committee chaired by Dr James McTaggart.

Through sponsorships and fund-raising events Mr Keown was able, with the help of a band of committed workers, to raise £8,000 for the award. The premier cup was donated by the RUC community relations branch, and another by consultant surgeons at the famous Musgrave Park Hospital where the award ceremony took place.

The cup went to Stanley Millar, aged 37, of Omagh, who was seriously injured in a rugby match in 1962. Despite being paralysed for 18 months in hospital and unable to go back to college, within six months he had made a new start as a clerical officer for Omagh Health District. He is married with two children.

A cup presented by the Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce went to Mr Eugene Kelly, 46, who lost his sight in a road accident, and a shield was won by Mr William Campbell, 28, who despite his cerebral palsy is a well-known Belfast artist. Working with a brush strapped to a head band he has already had a one-man show.

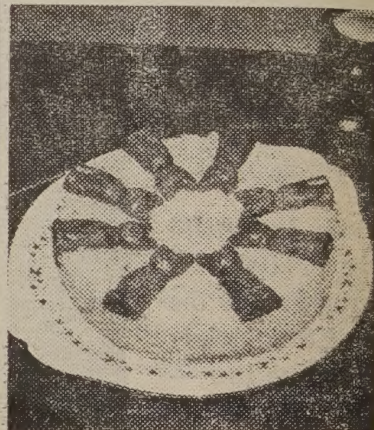
A special prize went to 18-year-old Mark Kelly who lost both legs in a terrorist car-bomb blast.

All the winners had fought back against appalling handicaps to make a mark on life and make life richer for others. Mr Eugene Kelly, of Enniskillen, runs a talking newspaper for 100 people and takes part in rock-climbing, mountaineering and canoeing. Mr Mark Kelly, whose injuries meant

he could not go to University, now does electrical engineering and has organised a disco road show.

On receiving his cup from Mr Keown, winner Mr Millar urged other handicapped people to make an effort to come out from their sheltered existence and prove they were not abnormal. "We must all become part of the community, we are all part of a family and we should all contribute to it," he said.

Cookery corner



LEMONY CHEESECAKE

Base:

4oz Wholemeal biscuits, crushed

1½oz Home-produced butter, melted

1 level tspn Finely grated lemon peel

Topping:

4oz Cream cheese

8oz Curd cheese

1 tbspn Lemon juice

1 level tspn Finely grated lemon rind

3oz Caster sugar

3 x size 4 Eggs, separated

1oz Cornflour

1-2 tbsps Fresh double cream

1oz caster sugar

Decoration:

Wholemeal biscuits, crushed

Chocolate "animals" or decoration of your own choice

(To crush the biscuits put them in a polythene bag, seal top and roll with a rolling pin.)

GREASE sides and bottom of a seven-inch (17.5cm) spring-clipped mould or loose-based cake tin. Mix the three ingredients for the base together and press firmly into the bottom of the prepared tin.

Put the two cheeses, lemon juice, rind, three ounces caster sugar, egg yolks and cornflour into a bowl and beat thoroughly until mixture is smooth, adding a little cream to moisten. Whisk the egg whites until stiff and fold in the remaining caster sugar and whisk again. Fold into the cheese mixture and pour over the biscuit base. Smooth the top. Cook in the middle of an oven at 325 deg F, Mark 2, 150 deg C, for one hour. Turn off heat, leave tin in oven and keep, with the oven door open about four or five inches, for 30-40 minutes. Remove cake from oven but leave in tin until it is cold. If necessary before removing cake from the tin run a knife round the sides. Place cheesecake on a plate or dish and store in a cool place for several hours (preferably overnight). Spread crushed wholemeal biscuits over sides and top (this can be omitted if preferred) and then decorate top with chocolate animals, or as desired. (Serves 8.) (Serves 8.)

To mark a special day



SEVERELY disabled workers at Dorincourt Industries, the sheltered workshop of Queen Elizabeth's Foundation for the Disabled, are producing a commemorative plate to mark the 80th birthday of their patron.

The plate, which was designed by Graham Rust, was presented to The Queen Mother at Clarence House on her birthday.

A limited edition of similar plates is being marketed by Wilton 65, the organisation set up to expand the market for ceramic products produced by Dorincourt Industries by introducing new techniques, and developing the skills of the disabled men and women who carry out the decoration.

Copies of the plate can be obtained from Wilton 65, c/o Dorincourt, Oaklawn Road, Leatherhead, Surrey, price £17.50 inclusive of VAT and p and p.



News about the Spastics Pool

THERE were 558 lucky winners in the recent Spastics Pool Charmgirl competition which was featured on the fortnightly bulletin. The prizes included a family holiday in America, two Mini city saloons, 30

seven night holidays for two in Ibiza, 25 cash prizes of £100, and 500 cash prizes of £5.

ABOVE: Delighted first prize winners Edward and Hilda Harper, of Bellericay, Essex, browsing through travel brochures for their USA holiday, with Spastics Pool Area Supervisor Bill Crawley (right).

BELOW: Mrs Vera Crellin, and her husband Ernest, being congratulated by Spastics Pool Area

Supervisor, Laurie Watterson, on their second prize win of a Mini city saloon. The other second prize was won by Mr Edward Bennett of Rickmansworth, Herts.

Special competitions like this are just one of the many benefits for members of the Spastics Pool.

If you would like more information on membership please contact Subscription Manager, Spastics Pool, 104 Stokes Croft, Bristol BS99 7QX.



Stand out in a crowd with a 'message' shirt

THE London Region of Spastics Society has gone into the publicity business, and has ordered a quantity of navy blue sweat-shirts and tee shirts bearing the legend THE SPASTICS SOCIETY in white print.

Readers are invited to take advantage of the bulk order discount prices. The tee shirts are available in small, medium, large and extra large at £2.99 and the sweatshirts are also available in small, medium, large and extra large at £5.99.

Our picture shows the sweatshirts being modelled by London Region staff who are also holding the lollipop stick" bought for flag days and other outdoor events. These can be made to order at £4 each. Cheques should be made



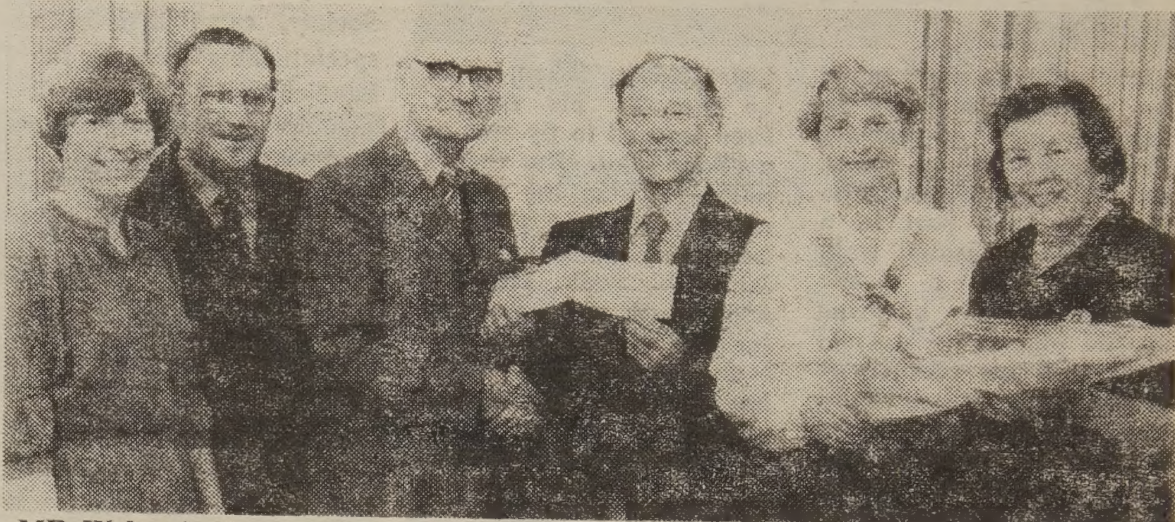
payable to The Spastics Society and sent with your order to The London Region, The Spastics Society, 76 Cambridge

Road, Kingston - upon - Thames, Surrey.

Lower prices may be available for large quantities.



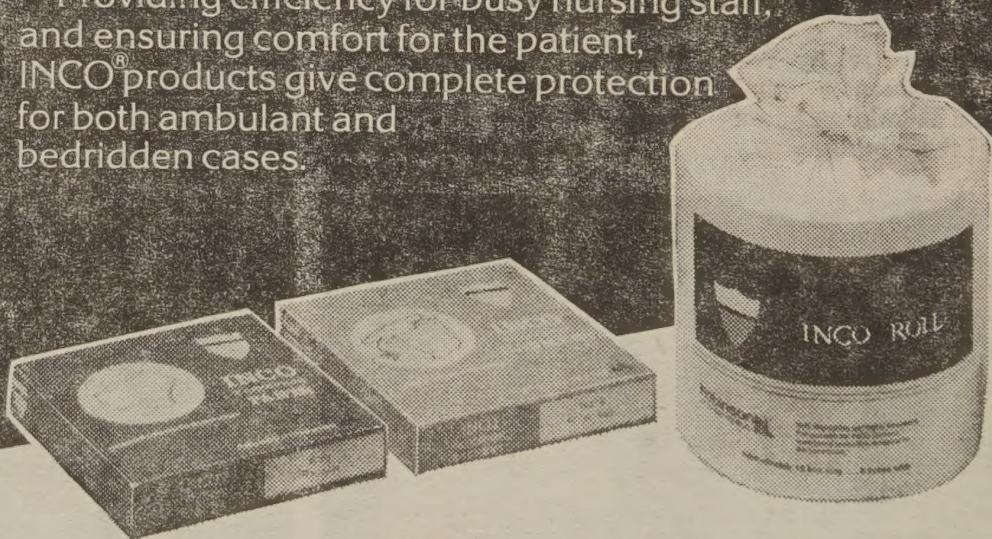
A £500 GOOD Neighbours Trust donation to the Carmarthenshire "Save a Baby" appeal has enabled organisers to reach their target and purchase a radiant heat incubator for the special care baby unit at Glangwili Hospital. The cheque was presented to Dr Alan Goodwin (left), head of the unit at the hospital. The appeal, launched by the Carmarthenshire Spastic and Disabled Persons Society, was brought to the attention of the Trustees by Mr J. M. Thomas of "Waumartin, Maesycrugiau, Pencader, Dyfed, who presented the cheque on the Trustees behalf.



MR Walter Bell and his wife, Alison, of Langholme, Dumfriesshire, recently got together with friends to celebrate winning £833 on the Spastics Pool first dividend. Picture shows Walter (right) receiving his cheque from the Chairman of the Community Council Mr James Harkness, with (from left to right) collector Mrs Dunn, Spastics Pool Supervisor, Mr Ritchie, and (far right) Mrs Harkness looking on.

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INCO PULL-ON PANTS. Supple P.V.C. pants in eight sizes with elasticated legs and waist for complete protection. Very suitable for ambulant and arthritic patients.

INCO GARMENTS. Made with a drop front and press-stud release to facilitate changing especially in bedridden cases. Eight adjustable sizes for a perfect fit.

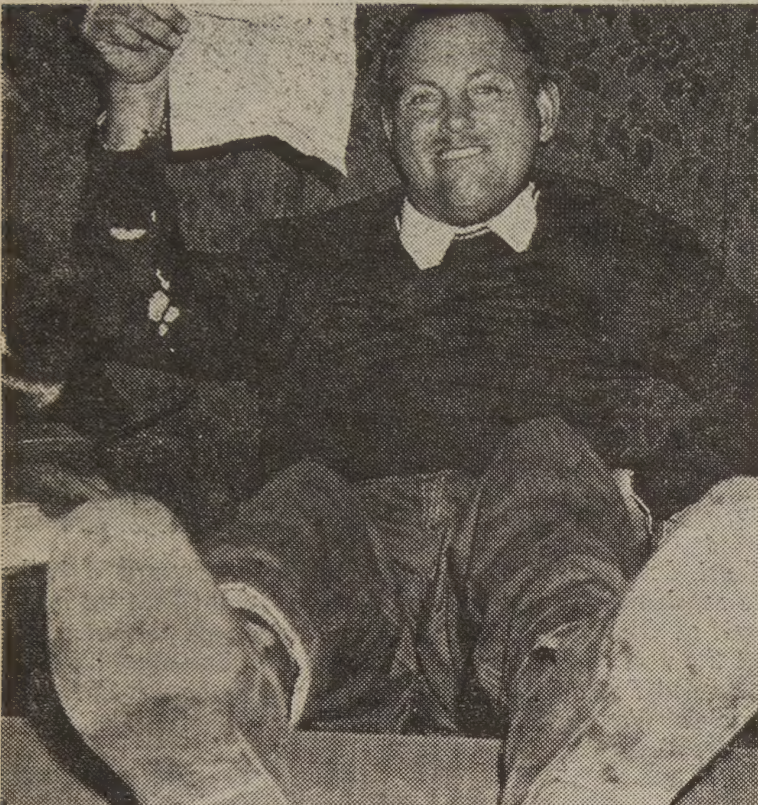
Both pants and garments are washable, waterproof, suitable for either sex and permanently size marked.

Robinsons of Chesterfield.

Robinson & Sons Ltd, Wheat Bridge, Chesterfield S40 2AD. Tel: Chesterfield 31101



People and places in the news



THESE boots were made for walking according to their owner, 45-year-old Fred Login from a village near Peterborough, who plans to take part in a nine mile sponsored walk to help other spastic people. In spite of being spastic himself — doctors once told his mother he might never walk — Fred has since learned to drive a car and a tractor as well as a speedboat towing

water skiers. Then, when he was in his thirties, Fred learned to fly solo as a glider pilot. But there's nothing up in the clouds about Fred, who plans to be up at 5 am on the morning of his walk. He's got £500 worth of sponsorship backing, mainly from customers of the garage where he operates the petrol pumps.

Picture by Peterborough Evening Telegraph



"HOW'S that for starters?"

Mrs Rita Higham, headmistress of the Society's Meldreth Manor School, holds up a £1,000 cheque presented to her by Mr Frank Pammenter and Mrs Anne Handscombe on behalf of the Vintage Rally Group.

An increasing number of deaf children are now being referred to Meldreth Manor and an appeal target of £15,000 has been set for a new unit for the deaf.

Picture by Cambridge Evening News



MRS Valerie Elphinstone (right) of the Sunderland and District Spastics Society says a big thank-you to Mrs Nora Scott, landlady at the Black Bull, East Boldon, whose regulars raised £460 in four months to buy the travel chair pictured above.

The chair, designed in America, can be adapted for use in a car, and it can also be pushed up and down stairs. It will be handed over for use by a five-year-old boy from nearby Herrington, who is severely disabled.

Picture by Shields Gazette



PUPILS from the Wilfred Pickles School at Stamford, Lincs, run by The Spastics Society, came first in a special riding event for the handicapped at the Newark

County Show. They beat nine teams from all over the country in a costume riding event dressed up as Robin Hood and his Merry Men. Team members were Damilola Jegeded, Bill

Abraham, Christopher Waller, Christopher Molesworth, Nicola Kirk and Mary Wragg, pictured here with their adult helpers.

Picture by Stamford Mercury



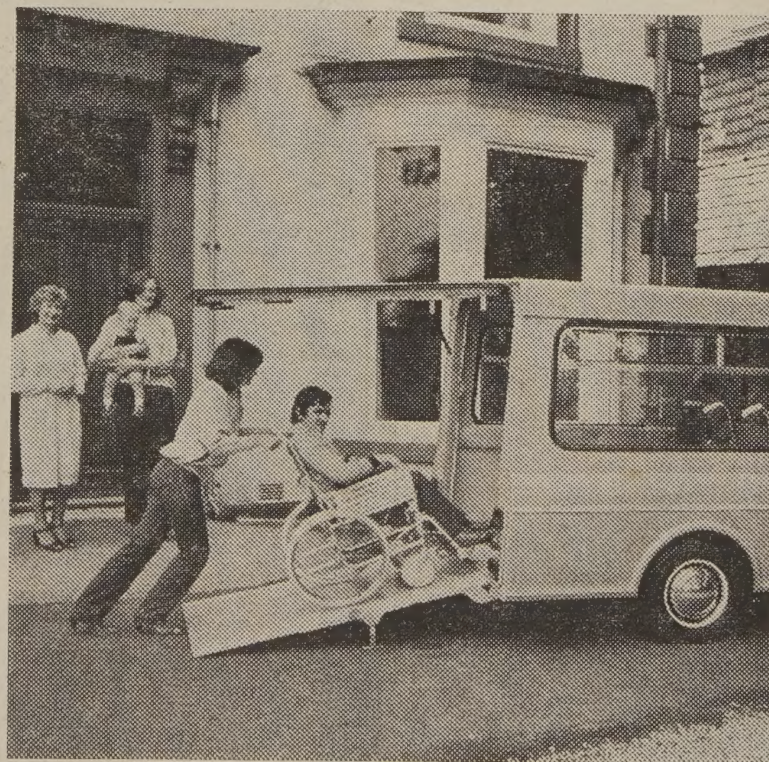
MIKE Dalton — he's the "cowboy" in the glasses, in the genuine Nashville police uniform — is a professional musician with his own Country & Western band. But his real name is Mike McQuade and he works at Kyre Park Centre, run by The Spastics Society.

Mike manages to combine his highly successful music making with equally successful fund raising, and last year he took a party of Kyre Park residents to Nashville on the proceeds. Now he's busy raising money for another trip to the States in September for an even bigger party of residents to go to Miami

Beach, Florida. They plan to visit Kennedy Space Centre and also spend two days in Disneyland.

There's another important date booked in Mike's diary before September — August 24, when Kyre Park will become the venue for the biggest Country & Western gathering ever held in this country, apart from Wembley. Fifteen to 20 Country and Western bands will be taking part and plans include the building of a mock Western township with a staged bullion robbery, plus a shoot-out between two local councillors. Around 3,000 people are expected to attend and the proceeds, less expenses, will go towards the Florida holiday.

Picture by the Kidderminster Times



GUESTS at Hyde Lea, the Bolton and District Spastics Society's short stay home in Astley Bridge, have been "first on the roaders," going for test drives in a newly-designed vehicle specifically intended for wheelchair passengers.

The back of the van is so low that wheelchairs can be pushed on with very little effort and the need for lifts is eliminated.

The prototype pictured above is an Austin Maxi,

adapted by a Bolton firm, but the Austin Princess will eventually be used in production.

Mechanical Services, the firm which designed the low-level adaption, say the cost will be between £6 and £7,000, considerably less than a conventionally adapted ambulance. The prototype suspension design is currently being evaluated by hospital authorities and by voluntary organisations.

Picture by the Bolton Evening News



THE Visiting Aids Centre organised by The Spastics Society was in Portsmouth recently when local residents were able to look at the 150 or so exhibition items displayed in the van.

A friendly chat with the occupational therapist Miss Honor Edwards (far right) often solves many a daily living problem caused by disability.

Picture by The News, Portsmouth



THE Church of St Lawrence at Meriden, Coventry, where David Heath and Bridget Saville have been regular worshippers, was packed for their wedding.

David, who is 37, and severely handicapped, and Bridget, 33, had been sweethearts at Penderel residential centre since Bridget first arrived 16 years ago. The centre was then run by the Coventry and District Spastics Society which had two spare places which could not be filled locally, and which were offered to the Society's headquarters. Bridget, who comes from Maidstone, was selected, and the boy who filled the other place is also now engaged to another resident at Penderel. The centre is now run by the Coventry City Council.

All 25 Penderel residents were at the church to see David and Bridget wed, David making his responses through his word board.

Their honeymoon at the local Society's holiday bungalow had to be postponed because Bridget was suffering from a severe chest infection, but they later arranged to stay for a week at the Society's Bedford Hotel, Clacton. The couple are living at Ernest Hull House, a purpose-built complex in Coventry, where they have a private sitting room and bedroom at the unit, run by the local authority.

The rich rewards of serving the community

TERESA Roberts, who has written her own story for Spastics News of what it is like to be a Community Service Volunteer, is 20, and comes from Cornwall. She has a fairly mild form of cerebral palsy, which has caused a weakness in her legs and has made working with her hands very tiring.

She applied to CSV in March this year, and started work at the Sunshine Home Nursery School for deaf and blind children at Overly Hall, Shropshire, in April. She wants to be a CSV "for as long as she's needed."

I WILL start by telling you how I became a Community Service Volunteer. I was trying to find a job working with children, and I wrote to a fair number of places and they said that they needed people with either experience or qualifications. While I was in Liskeard, Cornwall, one day I popped into a children's home to see if they had any vacancies. They said they would not have any in the near future, but they did have a Community Service Volunteer who was working with them for a year. The girl was really enjoying it.

Being a Community Service Volunteer is a way that you can serve the community on a full-time basis. You are free from money and accommodation problems, and you are not tied to a job for a long

time. I think it is a fantastic experience.

It is just what I needed, as it is giving me a chance to see how I can work with deaf and blind children. I have worked at home in a village playschool with children from the age of 2½ years up until they start school. I found that very enjoyable, but I find it more rewarding when you can achieve something with deaf/blind children.

Hard work

I think that working as a CS volunteer would help other handicapped people, as it gives a sense of independence. It also helps you to know that the people who have helped you have worked hard. Well, it has shown me! I have lived in two places run by The Spastics Society — Dene Park Further Education Centre and Sherrards Training Education Centre at Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire. At the weekends we were sometimes able to stay up late, and I know that the staff must have found it trying.

I am doing by community service at Sunshine Homes Nursery School for Blind Children, Overly Hall, Telford, Shropshire. It is a nursery school for deaf/blind children aged between 5 and 10 years. They live in two nurseries, five children in each nursery. There is a housemother, an assistant housemother, and a junior care



● THE two pictures on this page show Teresa Roberts enjoying her work as a Community Service Volunteer at a nursery school for deaf and blind children in Shropshire.

Pictures by "The Observer"

assistant with each family group.

In the week I work in the school, from 9.30 am until 4.15 pm. There are two teachers and three nursery nurses who help in the school. I work mainly with the younger children. In the morning we do things like matching shapes, colours and threading beads until 10.30 am. After that we do music and movement, when we let the children listen to music and move around, and they can hear the vibrations through the floor. In the afternoon we take the children on walks and outings, and they go horse-riding, swimming, and also do some cooking. I enjoy the afternoons a lot, there is more going on, although I cannot go horse-riding as I would not be able to hold them on. At the weekends I help in the nursery; we play with the children and also look after them.

I have mainly been working with an eight-year-old boy who cannot see anything, but can hear quite well. He makes sounds, and does say "Yes." He has taught me a lot. I never realised what not being able to see would be like. Now I know how careful you have to be

taking out a blind/deaf child.

I do not really have many problems working with the children, the only problem that does bother me sometimes is that I cannot carry a child for too long, my arms cannot hold them. But all of them here can walk, except one, and she can walk with help. Also, if the older ones get frustrated I cannot hold them as they are too strong, but I'm not on my own so I have always got help.

I think that CSV does help young people to live away from home and get to know another part of the country from their home area.

More disabled volunteers?

ANDY Kelmanson, Co-ordinator of CSV's Volunteer Programme, comments:

"Teresa is one of a small number of physically disabled young people placed by CSV each year. In spite of CSV's 'open door' policy for volunteers, only a small number of highly motivated dis-

abled youngsters reach us. While we would dearly like to enable many more disabled young people to serve their community through CSV, there are at the moment insufficient funds. CSV is therefore seeking funding for a specialist three-year programme, to explore the potential of such placements. Any offers?"

Your adverts

MISS Margaret Knight is a 25-year-old Cornish girl who is looking for a penpal. She tells us that she has short brown hair, wears glasses and lives at home with her mother. Illness means that she cannot get out to meet people and she is very anxious to have a pen-friend to correspond with. Her interests are making soft toys, reading novels of all kinds and collecting badges. If a pen-friendship works out she suggests meeting up. Margaret's address is 16 River View, Saltash, Cornwall.

THE London Region of The Spastics Society has a carnival float/display tent for sale. It is an 8ft x 12ft trailer with the platform some 4ft from the ground and can be rigged either as a carnival float with the front and half of each side raised to shoulder length, bearing the words "Support your local spastics." Alternatively, it can be rigged to become a 12ft diameter circular tent with steps up to it, for use at outside events and displays.

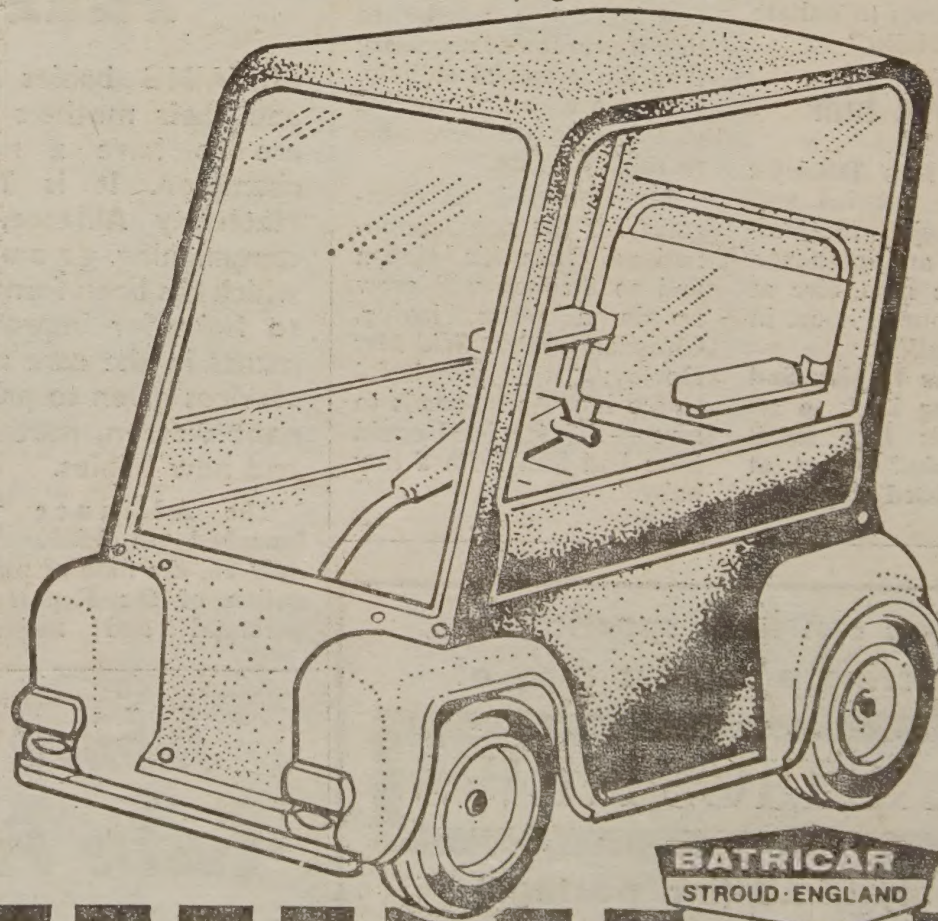
Offers are invited for this trailer over £250. Viewing can be arranged.

Contact David Saint, The Spastics Society (London Region), 76 Cambridge Road, Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey.



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● JUNE and Gerry Dooley had nothing but praise for the Society's Family Help Unit where they spent a great deal of time learning about the problems involved in caring for handicapped children from Mrs Margaret Cresswell. Said Mr Dooley: "I would have been scared stiff without her help. The aim is to make the child as normal as possible and bring out its potential." The Dooley's are pictured at the Bury St Edmunds Unit.

Stephen's story told on TV

● Continued from Page 1

was really magnificent what she did," Mrs Dooley explained.

The plan to adopt Stephen was not without its difficulties as the Dooleys were to discover, and which were related on the TV programme. It was not until March that he came home to them. However within three weeks of having him with them Stephen, who can neither walk nor talk, was dry. And the grunt he made has become a two syllable noise as he tries to imitate words like "Hello."

'All love him'

Four of Mrs Dooley's children are married and the rest, Joslyn, 13, Victoria, nine, and grandson Samuel, also nine, live at home in a council house in Haverhill, Suffolk.

Didn't Mrs Dooley find it hard going back to all the demands that small children make? "Not at all," she insisted emphatic-

ally. "We just all love him you see. It is absolutely exhilarating to see how he's developed — and it is all through love. I find looking after him the most wonderful thing that has happened to me. My life has taken on a new dimension.

"Everything he does is marvellous. The younger children love him and the only time they fight is over who should do something for him next, and then I have to step in because I want Stephen to do things for himself. And my older daughters live nearby so that if ever it was necessary they are prepared to help. We are a very close family, that is why we were able to take Stephen."

Mr Dooley is an evangelist for the non-denominational Open Air Mission and so Stephen will grow up in a warm, loving, Christian family. Said Mrs Dooley: "It is wonderful to see how he responds to love — I just wish I could have had him from a tiny baby."

Society's campaign film is an international winner

THE life and times of women expecting babies in some areas of Britain movingly documented in the Society's film "Feeling Special," directed by Nigel Evans, won high acclaim when it was screened at the highly competitive World Congress Film Festival in Canada.

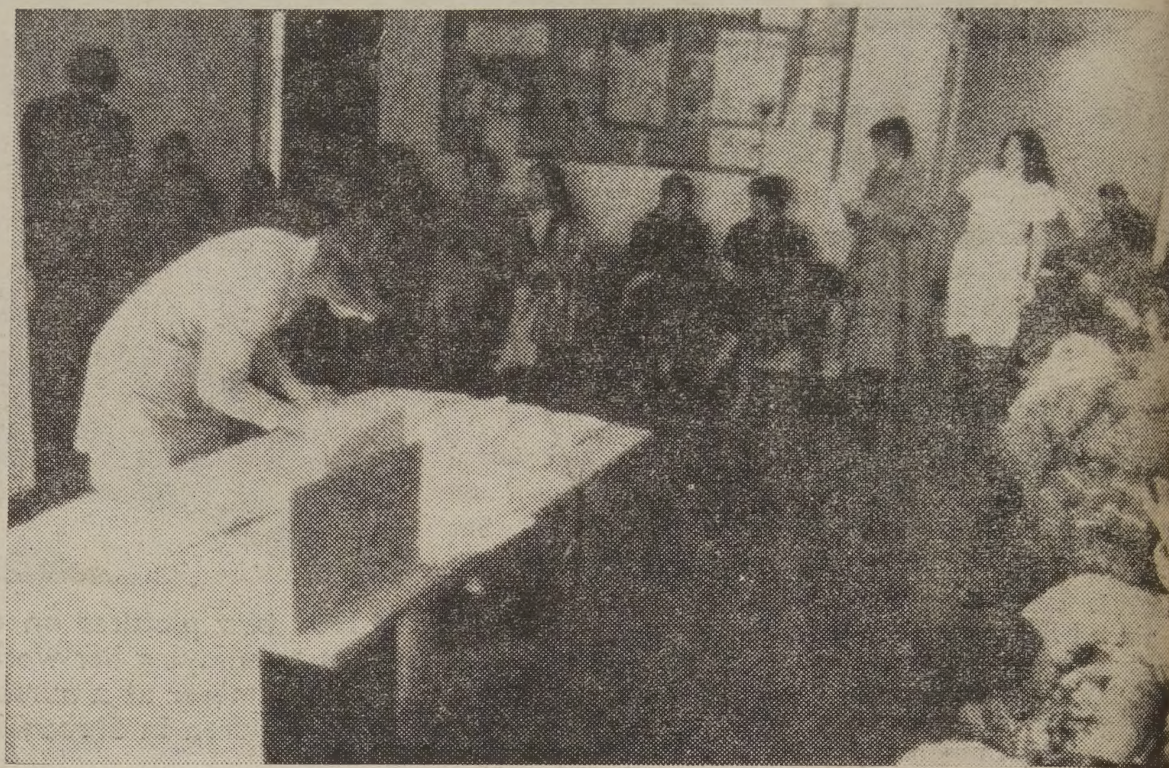
There were 65 entries from all over the world, and finalists were selected on the effectiveness of the presentation of the message and on the professional quality of the film. There were four categories and it was in the Prevention and Professional class that "Feeling Special" won first place.

The film depicted the grim conditions experienced by thousands of pregnant women in some hospital ante-natal clinics, where they felt as if they were being processed like machines in a factory, sometimes waiting up to three hours to be seen.

The reality of ante-natal care in Britain coupled with the poor mortality rate for a country in the Western world is hammered home with facts and figures and a call for a change in emphasis.

The film took its title from the words of one of the women interviewed:

"I think they go along bouncy and confident and pleased to be pregnant and longing to find out all sorts of things about the baby and their body and themselves, and they go to the hospital and see 50 other women also expect-



● A TYPICAL scene in a hospital ante-natal clinic shown in the film, and typical of some hospitals throughout the country, where expectant mothers can wait up to three hours to be seen. "Feeling Special" examined the problem and presented alternatives.

ing babies. They don't get any personal care, nobody can take any real immediate interest in them, they feel guilty because they thought they were going to be treated as somebody ever so special, and again, they turn it inward."

The competition's overall gold medal went to a home-produced film, "Emerging," made by the Canadian Rehabilitation Council for the Disabled, the silver to "Pins and Needles" by Genni Batterham, Australia, and the bronze, "Consequences" by Barry Corbett, USA.



A PREMATURE baby receiving intensive care. A still from the Society's film "Priority of Priorities."

Alliance will fight for Britain's babies

BRITAIN'S babies — and their mothers — are to have a new champion. It is The Maternity Alliance, a campaigning group, which has been formed to fight for improvements in the care and services given to pregnant women, mothers and new babies.

The Alliance was launched on Wednesday, July 16, the date of publication of the Report on perinatal and neonatal

mortality of the Parliamentary Select Committee — chaired by Mrs Renee Short, MP.

One of the first objectives of the group will be to ensure that the MP's recommendations to improve maternity and neonatal services are not neglected. As Helene Hayman, former Labour MP and spokeswoman for the group, says: "The lives and health of babies are far

too important to allow this report to be put on the shelf with so many others. We want immediate government action."

The Maternity Alliance will act as an umbrella organisation under which lay people — especially individual mothers — professionals, and groups such as trade unions and women's organisations, can come together.

The Alliance already has an impressive list of sponsors including: Mrs Renee Short; Geoffrey Chamberlain, obstetrician, and Chairman of the Children's Committee Working Party on Perinatal Mortality; Osmund Reynolds, Professor of Neonatal Paediatrics; Christine Doyle, medical correspondent of the "Observer," and organisations such as the Scottish Trades Union Congress, the National Childbirth Trust, and the Patients Association.

The formation of the Maternity Alliance stems from the campaign waged last year to improve the present £25 maternity

grant. The founding organisations concerned are The National Council for One Parent Families, Child Poverty Action Group, and The Spastics Society, and the individual women include a grandmother and author of "Prevention of Handicap and the Health of Women," Margaret Wynn, and journalist Catherine Boyd.

SPASTICS NEWS

Published by The Spastics Society.

Editor: Sheila Jenner. Editorial office: The Spastics Society, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ. Tel: 01-636 5020.

Advertising representative: H. A. Collins Ltd, 37 Ruskin Road, Carshalton, Surrey SM5 3BQ. Tel 01-647 1393.

The views expressed in Spastics News are not necessarily those of The Spastics Society.

Printed by F. J. Parsons, Observer Buildings, Cambridge Road, Hastings, Sussex.

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Jubilee cash helps Castle Priory student

A CHEQUE for £1,000 from the Silver Jubilee Trust will enable a student from Jamaica to take the Houseparents Course at Castle Priory College, run by The Spastics Society. After the 15 months course, which leads to the Certificate in Residential Care of the Handicapped, the student will return to Jamaica to work in a home for multiply handicapped children recently set up by the National Children's Home.

Castle Priory applied to the Silver Jubilee Trust when its aim of helping young people was first announced. The cheque has now been presented by the Chairman of South Oxfordshire District Council, Major Arthur Clewes to Mr Ray Johnson, Senior Tutor at Castle Priory, and the student will start the course in September.